

Claims 4-9 stand finally rejected under 35 USC 103(a) over Doughty et al., in that while the reference does not disclose any specific transmissivity for the discharge vessel, such would have been an obvious design consideration based on the desired light intensity.

It is well-settled that obviousness under Section 103 must be judged in light of the teachings of the prior art references, not on some unsubstantiated 'obvious design principles'.

Doughty et al. is primarily concerned with the production of visible light. Thus, it is not surprising that Doughty et al. provides no guidance regarding transmissivity of the discharge vessel in the UV region.

In contrast to the teachings of Doughty et al., Applicants' discharge vessel (12 in Fig. 1) is designed to transmit UV light, not visible light. Thus, the skilled artisan would not be motivated by the teachings of Doughty et al. to provide a vessel with the particular transmissivity taught and claimed by Applicants.

Accordingly, Doughty et al. do not render claims 4-9 unpatentable, and it is urged that the rejection is in error and should be withdrawn.

Claims 10-12 stand finally rejected under 35 USC 103(a) over Doughty et al. in view of Traksel et al. (US patent 6,048,241).

Traksel et al. relates to low-pressure mercury discharge lamp which is easy to manufacture. Pursuant to this object, the discharge vessel is shaped to allow accessibility of the mercury capsule to exterior radiation needed to open the capsule after it has been sealed into the discharge vessel, and prior to use of the lamp.

Since Traksel et al. is concerned with shape problems related to the manufacture of mercury-containing lamps, the skilled artisan would not be motivated by the teachings of this reference to alter the shape of the discharge vessel of a mercury-free lamp.

Accordingly, the combination of Doughty et al. and Traksel et al. does not render claims 10-12 unpatentable, and it is urged that the rejection is in error and should be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejections of record, allow all the pending claims, and find the application to be in condition for allowance. If any points remain in issue that may best be resolved through a personal or telephonic interview, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "John C. Fox", is written over a horizontal line.

John C. Fox, Reg. 24,975
Consulting Patent Attorney
203-329-6584